



March 3, 2009

The Honorable John W. Fonfara, Co-Chair
The Honorable Vickie Orsini Nardello, Co-Chair
Energy and Technology Committee
Room 3900, Legislative Office Building
Hartford, CT 06106

RE: H.B. 6608 – An Act Concerning Consumer Protection in Telecommunications Companies

Dear Senator Fonfara & Representative Nardello:

I am writing to express the East Hartford Chamber of Commerce's opposition to House Bill No. 6608 An Act Concerning Consumer Protection in Telecommunication Companies.

HR 6608 wrongly places unnecessary regulations on AT&T, and leaves most of its in state competitors untouched.

Connecticut is one of the most competitive markets for telephone services, with cable companies offering phone service everywhere in the state. As a result of this competition, AT&T has lost 40% of its wireline phone business since 2000. This type of competition makes companies provide better service, for if they don't; consumers have a variety of options and will take their business elsewhere.

Furthermore, HR 6608 applies only to those telecommunication companies that are under the DPUC's jurisdiction, including AT&T. Most of their competitors that have moved into the phone business are not under the DPUC's jurisdiction and are not impacted by this legislation. Clearly HR 6608 puts AT&T at a competitive disadvantage.

Please help maintain healthy competition within Connecticut's telecommunication industry and oppose HR 6608.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Beth Reid, Executive Director
East Hartford Chamber of Commerce

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